



Office of Smart Growth Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Summary of:

Preserving Historic Ranch and Agricultural Properties Historic Routt County Barns Etc! Program

(information below provided from slide show provided by the program)

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Historic Routt County! Mission:

To preserve the character of Routt County's communities and rural areas through the built environment

HRC's Barns Etc! Program, Goal:

To help interested property owners preserve their Routt County ranches

HRC! Barns Etc! Background Work:

Education programs- community outreach meetings, hands-on restoration workshops, lectures and exhibits

Typical Routt County ranches are developed between 1900 to 1920, and are modest in size and construction. They are threatened due to increasing property values, poor condition due to age and weathering, and decreasing agricultural product profitability.

HRC Barns Etc! Working Partners include:

Historic Routt County!, individual ranchers and property owners, UCD College of Architecture and Planning, City of Steamboat Springs, and the Yampa Valley Land Trust

HRC Barns Etc! Program Funding:

HRC membership donations, City of Steamboat Springs, Routt County, Office of Smart Growth, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, University of Colorado at Denver, Colorado Center for Community Development, State Historical Fund of the Colorado Historical Society

Barns Etc! Program Components:

Ranch surveys and inventories, nomination assistance, historic structure assessments, photographs, direct technical assistance, HABS/HAER drawings, Adopt a Barn program, facilitate grants, and facilitate preservation easements.

HRC Barns Etc! Key Points:

Large variety of options, ranchers pick and choose what they want to participate in or be involved in, preservation is incentive based, no strings attached to program, easy to access/use/be involved in program. Rancher driven steering committee.

Why are ranchers interested in Barns Etc?

- Want to preserve rural/ag way of life
- Like the fact that non-ag folks are interested in preserving ag heritage and way of life
- Access to technical, professional assistance to preserve and restore buildings
- Potential for tax and other incentives
- No strings attached (except with conservation and preservation easements)

Special issues for ranchers:

- Working with people who know ranching
- Potential tax implications of restoration and maintenance work on historic buildings
- Clarity regarding concerns about restrictions associated with incentives/strings attached to program involvement.

Summary

Recommendations from HRC

- Inventory the conservation resources in your community and identify partnership possibilities
- Share your expertise in historic preservation with your local land conservation organizations and encourage partnerships on projects